THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Women officers are not being assigned jobs on ground combat . missions, as they are not eligible for induction in Infantry, Armoured Corps and Mechanised Infantry.

Manufacture of armoured car

t1487. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the initiative of Defence Research and Development Organisation (D.R.D.O.) its, DMSRDE laboratory has succeeded in manufacturing a car which remains completely unaffected from terrorist attacks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost likely to be incurred on the manufacturing of the said car; and

(d) by when the large scale production of the said car is likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) DMSRDE Kanpur, a laboratory of DRDO, has not developed such a car. However, DMSRDE has developed a bullet proof glass laminate for fitment on ambassador car.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Armymen in Pakistani jails

1488. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of Indian Army's Commissioned and Noncommissioned officers and soldiers currently in Pakistani jails;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether these also include some soldiers, who were mistakenly declared as absconders by the Army authorities during the Kargil conflict; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken to secure their release?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) It is estimated that 17 Army Officers, 2 Junior Commissioned Officers and 19 other Ranks (OR) are currently in Pakistan jails.

(b) 2 soldiers (OR) of the Indian Army, were declared deserters on 17th September 1999, in the absence of any knowledge of their whereabouts by a court of inquiry. These two soldiers were taken off the deserters' list when Pakistan confirmed that they were in their custody.

(c) Both these soldiers have since been released by Pakistan on 9th August, 2004.

Accidents of MiG-21 aircrafts

†1489. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of MiG-21 aircrafts that have met with accidents so far

(b) the factors responsible for accident of these aircrafts;

(c) the number of MiG-21 aircrafts still included in the fleet; and

(d) the details of plan Government have formulated to check such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) A total number of 319 MiG-21 aircraft have met Cat-I accidents since the year 1971-1972.

I (b) Major causes of these accidents are Technical Defect, Human Error and Bird Hit.

(c) The Indian Air Force (IAF) have adequate number of MiG aircraft along with other aircraft to safeguard the interest of our country. However, the exact number of such aircraft can not be divulged in the interest of national security.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.